

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated July 7, 2003, claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Japanese Publication No. JP-44-010774 (hereinafter "JP '774"), in which an English language abstract was provided. Specifically, the office action recites that "JP '774" teaches the product of sorbyl chloride and pentachlorothiophenol. Pentachlorophenol is a well-known insecticide." Office Action at page 2. As a result, no claim is considered patentable.

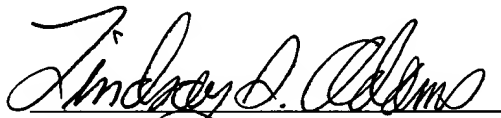
In response, Applicants have amended claims 1-3 to separate the subject matter of "sorbyl thiol esters" from "crotonyl thiol esters." Claims 1-3, as amended, now recite that the bonding agent is a crotonyl thiol ester. The deleted subject matter of a "sorbyl thiol ester" being the bonding agent is now found in new claims 14-16. Specifically, JP '774 provides no disclosure whatsoever on the use of "crotonyl thiol esters". Applicants have obtained a translation of JP '774, which is submitted for the Examiner's consideration in a supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. Accordingly, the subject matter of claims 1-3, as amended, is not disclosed, taught or suggested by JP '774. Allowance of claims 1-3, as amended, is respectfully requested.

With regard to the "sorbyl thiol esters", claims 14-16 include a markush listing of characteristic use agents that does not include an "insecticide" such as pentachlorophenol. As a result, claims 14-16 are not anticipated by JP '774. In addition, JP '774 fails to teach or suggest other compounds to be used in lieu of pentachlorothiophenol. As a result, one skilled in the art would not be motivated to attach other compounds to sorbyl chloride that would be encompassed by the claimed characteristic use agents of the present invention. Claims 14-16 are therefore novel and non-obvious. Allowance of claims 14-16 is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the amendment submitted herewith, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due with this response other than the fee for the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. However, if any additional fees are due please charge such sums to our Deposit Account 50-1145.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lindsay S. Adams", written over a horizontal line.

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